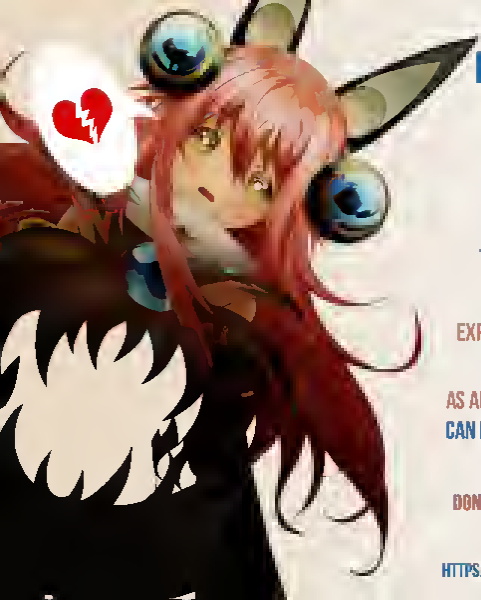

FALLEN SYNDICATE

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

CURRENTLY WE NEED:

TRANSLATOR FOR 1001 KNIGHTS

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AS ALWAYS, FEEL FREE TO DONATE SO WE CAN BUY RAWS! EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

DON'T LET POOR Q DESPAIR (AND US, TOO)!

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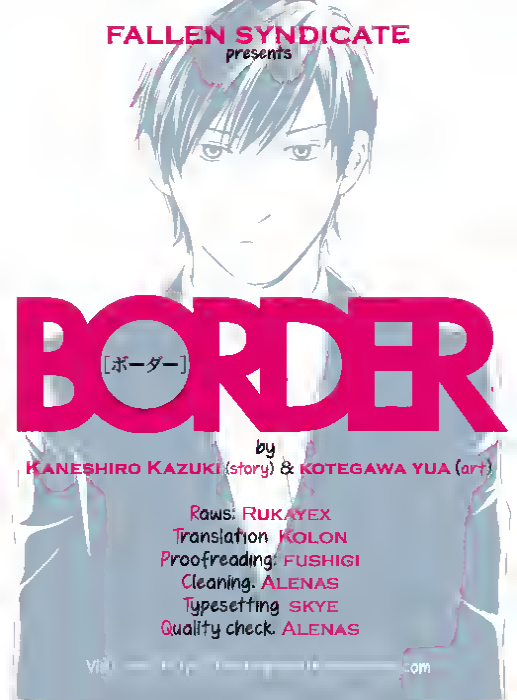
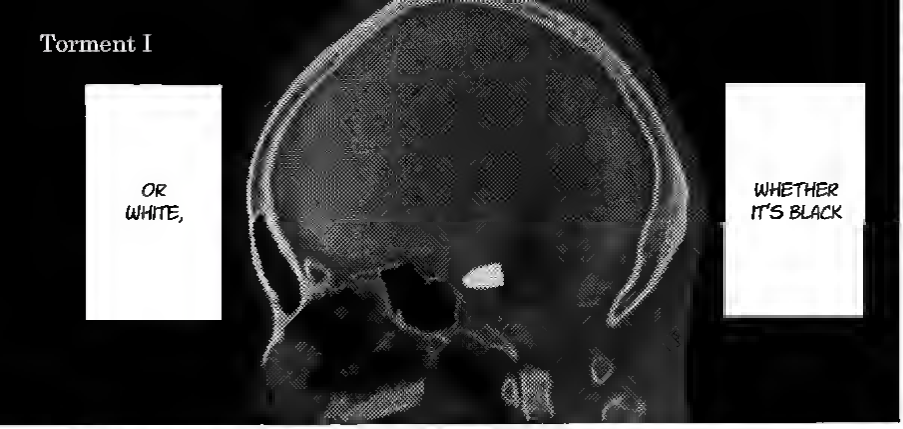

FALLEN SYNDICATE
presents
BORDER
[ボーダー]
by
KANESHIRO KAZUKI (story) & KOTEGAWA YUA (art)
Raws: RUKAYEX
Translation: KOLON
Proofreading: FUSHIGI
Cleaning: ALENAS
Typesetting: SKYE
Quality check: ALENAS

BORDER


WHETHER IT'S BLACK
OR WHITE,

THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES COMPARED TO YOUR LAST VISIT,
AND THE SIZE OF THE BRAIN ANEURYSM HAS NOT CHANGED AS WELL.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO REST.

I DO NOT RECOMMEND YOU TO CONTINUE WORKING....
IT'S UP TO THE BRAIN TO DECIDE

AFTER GETTING SHOT IN THE BRAIN, MY WORLD HAS CHANGED
EVEN IF THAT PERSON IS DEAD
IF I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL DIE,
I'D RATHER DIE HELPING OTHERS.
BUZZ
BUZZ
ISHI-KAWA, THIS ONE'S BIG.
IS THE WORLD BLACK OR WHITE?
OR IS IT...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE KILLED LIKE THIS.

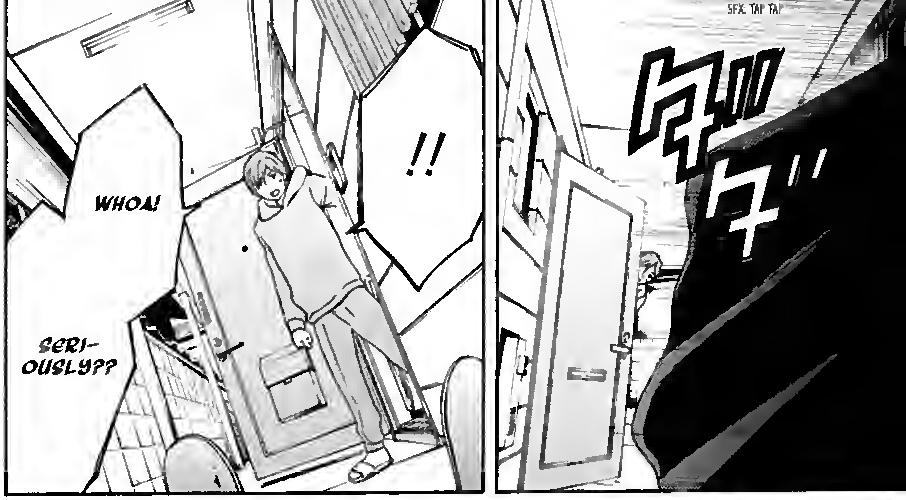
Torment I

NO, I'M NOT ALRIGHT.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE
I CAN!! I WILL!!
IF YOU CAN'T WORK, GO HOME.
GOD, WOMEN!
YOU'RE TREMBLING ...
APPARENTLY, IT WAS THE ONE PLACED IN THE APARTMENT'S HALLWAY.
ALSO, SOMEONE LIVING IN THE SAME APARTMENT WITNESSED IT.
SEEMS LIKE THE WEAPON USED WAS THE EXTINGUISHER.
ANYWAY, THIS IS AMAZING.
HIS HEAD IS COMPLETELY CRUSHED.

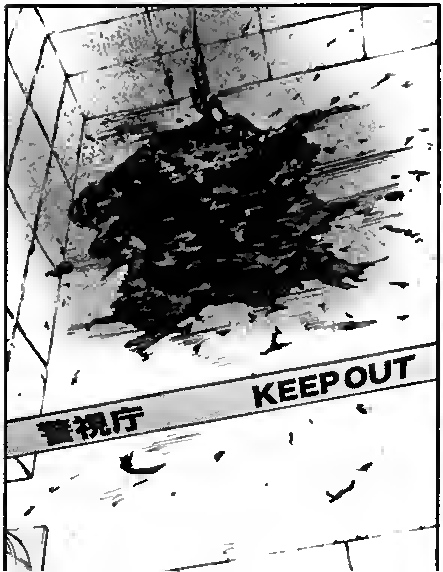
SFX: WHACK
SFX: WHACK WHACK

SFX: CLACK
WHA!?
!

CLANG
SFX: DASH
WHOA!


WHOA!
!!
SERI-OUSLY??
SFX. TAP TAP
ガチャ
ガチャ

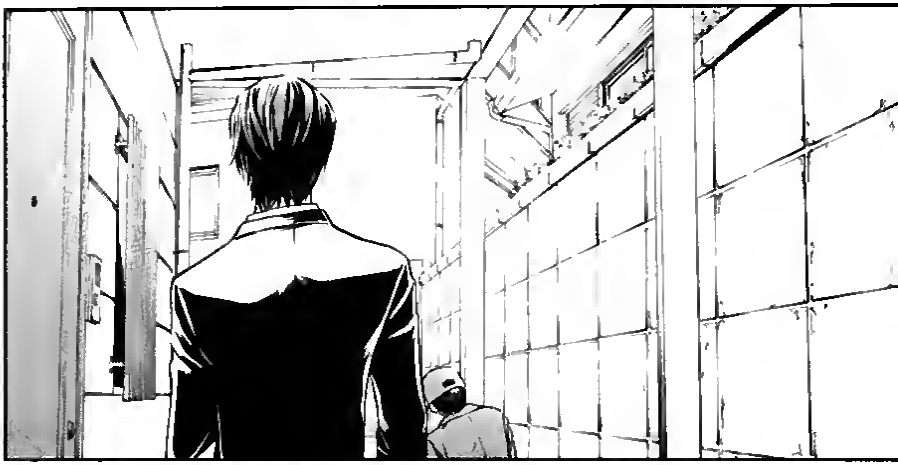
SO IT WAS PROBABLY A GUY.
HE WAS TALLER THAN ME,
HE WAS WEARING SOMETHING LIKE A BLACK RAINCOAT.


警視庁
KEEP OUT

ICHIKURA-SAN,
THERE WAS AN ARSON REPORTED IN THE NEARBY RESIDENTIAL STREET.

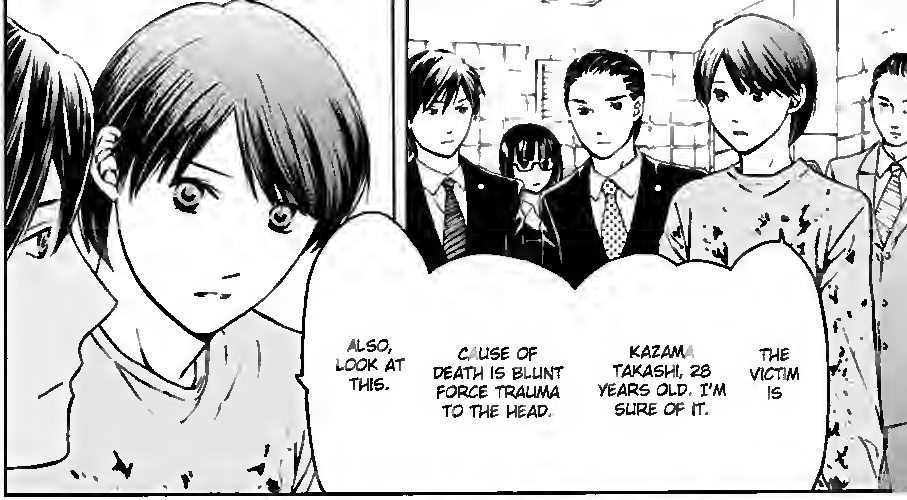
COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE CULPRIT'S RAINCOAT?
THE BURNT OBJECT LOOKS LIKE VINYL...
LOOKS LIKE THE CULPRIT USED FLAMMABLE OIL TO SET THE OBJECT ON FIRE.
THEN THE EVIDENCE WAS BURNT..
THE CULPRIT TOOK OFF THE RAINCOAT, AND RAN HERE...
THE WEAPON IS FROM THE CRIME SCENE... THE RAINCOAT WAS WORN TO PREVENT BLOOD FROM STAINING.
THERE AREN'T MANY SECURITY CAMERAS IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS.
IT'S AS IF HE'S A PROFESSIONAL KILLER.
A WELL-PLANNED...
CRIME...

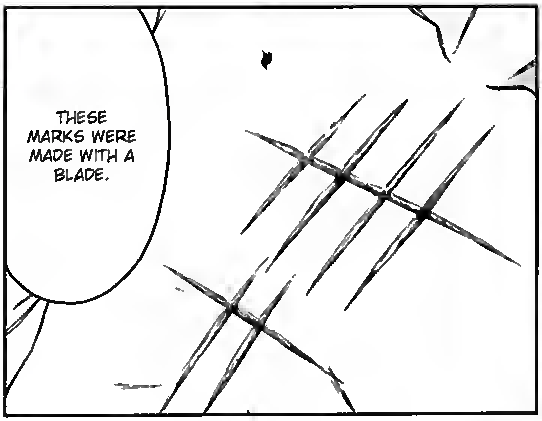
I GUESS
I SHOULD ASK
THE VICTIM...
KEEP OUT



!?

IT'S NOT HERE!?
THE SPIRIT,
THERE'S A CORPSE, SO WHY?
THE DENTAL RECORDS,
AND THE FINGERPRINTS ARE THE SAME, RIGHT?

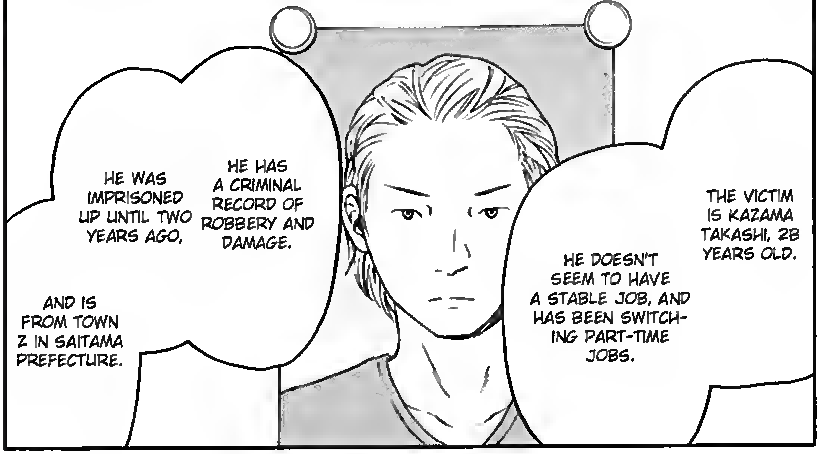

ALSO, LOOK AT THIS.
CAUSE OF DEATH IS BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA TO THE HEAD.
KAZAMA TAKASHI, 28 YEARS OLD. I'M SURE OF IT.
THE VICTIM IS

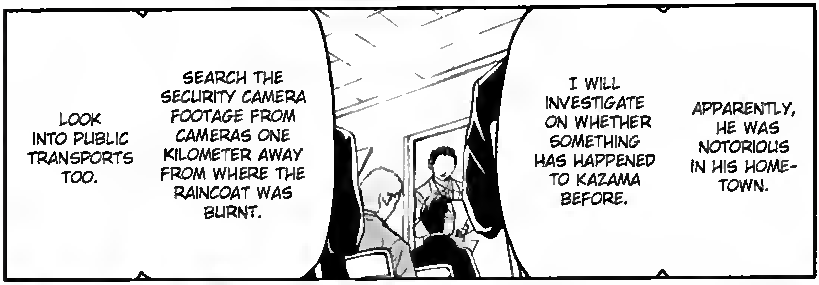

THESE MARKS WERE MADE WITH A BLADE.

SFX: FLAP
ハハ
ハハ

OR A MESSAGE.
IT'S EITHER THE CULPRIT'S SIGN...
WHAT IS THIS?

IT MIGHT BE THE NUMBER "8"...
IT'S A SYSTEM CALLED "TALLY"
WHERE YOU COUNT ONE BY ONE.
IT IS A COMMON METHOD OF COUNTING IN THE WEST.
IN JAPAN, WE USE THE LETTER "IE" TO COUNT.
"8"...
I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS...
EVEN THOUGH THE CULPRIT HAD A BLADE WITH HIM,
HE USED THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER HE GOT FROM THE CRIME SCENE.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY EMOTIONAL CRIME COMMITTED BY AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO HATED THE VICTIM A LOT.
LET'S INVESTIGATE THE ONES AROUND HIM.


THE VICTIM IS KAZAMA TAKASHI, 28 YEARS OLD.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A STABLE JOB, AND HAS BEEN SWITCHING PART-TIME JOBS.
HE HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD OF ROBBERY AND DAMAGE.
HE WAS IMPRISONED UP UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO,
AND IS FROM TOWN Z IN SAITAMA PREFECTURE.


APPARENTLY, HE WAS NOTORIOUS IN HIS HOMETOWN.
I WILL INVESTIGATE ON WHETHER SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO KAZAMA BEFORE.
SEARCH THE SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE FROM CAMERAS ONE KILOMETER AWAY FROM WHERE THE RAINCOAT WAS BURNT.
LOOK INTO PUBLIC TRANSPORTS TOO.

SFX: CLATTER CLATTER
ISHIKAWA.
YOU WENT FOR A CHECKUP, RIGHT?
HOW WAS IT?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I AM ALRIGHT.
YES,
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD.

I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS
OF COURSE I'M NOT ALRIGHT
EVER SINCE I WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD, I COULD SEE SPIRITS
I'VE ALSO STARTED TALKING TO THEM
AND WHY WON'T THE SPIRIT APPEAR THIS TIME?
WHY?
ONCE THE BODY IS CREMATED, THE SPIRIT DISAPPEARS TOO.
3

WHAT WAS DIFFERENT WITH THE PREVIOUS VICTIMS,
COMPARED TO THIS ONE..?
TO BE MORE EXACT, IT IS WHEN THE BODY'S BURNT...
THE BODY TURNS INTO ASHES.
WHAT'S DIFFERENT..?

THE BRAIN...
ICHIKURA-SAN!
THERE IS ANOTHER CORPSE!
THE VICTIM WAS KILLED THE SAME WAY!!
WHERE IS IT?
!

A HEAD INJURY,
IT'S THE SAME.
AND SLASHES ON THE CHEST.

IS THIS A SERIAL MURDER...?
IT HAPPENED YESTER-DAY...
AND TODAY, TOO.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE WEAPON.
THE BRICK IS IN PIECES.
LOOK.
IT PROBABLY WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH THIS TIME
THIS TIME HIS HEAD WASN'T CRUSHED
THE NUMBER HASN'T CHANGED.
TO THE NUMBER "8".
THERE MUST BE A MEANING
SFX: WHOOSH

SO IT REALLY IS THE BRAIN?
HE'S HERE
!?
Ah...

Aaaaah —
Aaah —
Aaah —
SEARCH FOR WITNESSES!
HURRY AND FIND OUT THE IDENTITY OF THE SECOND VICTIM!
IS HIS CAUSE OF DEATH BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA?
NO.
IN HIS CASE, IT WAS CAUSED BY SPINAL CORD INJURY.
A TRAUMATIC ONE.
ONE PART OF HIS HEAD IS DAMAGED BECAUSE OF A PUNCH.
HE PROBABLY BROKE HIS SPINE WHEN HE WAS KNOCKED DOWN BY THE CULPRIT.

WHAT?
IF HE CAME BACK TO LIFE, WOULD HE BE ABLE TO TALK?

……
……
……

EVEN IF HE DID COME BACK TO LIFE, HIS BRAIN IS QUITE DAMAGED.
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'D BE ABLE TO TALK.
PLEASE FORGET IT,
LET'S GO.
YES, SIR.

DOES THAT HELP?
DEPENDING ON WHICH PARTS ARE DAMAGED,
HIS METHOD OF EXPRESSION WOULD BE DIFFERENT.
.....
THANKS.
NO PROBLEM.
GOT IT.
GOOD LUCK CATCHING THE CULPRIT!

YOU KNOW,
I CAN ONLY SEE YOU HOPING FOR THE "VOICE TO VOICE" STAGE.
ACCORDING TO DESMOND MORRIS' 12 STAGES OF INTIMACY,
WHAT!?
SHOULD I HELP ASK FOR HER CONTACT ADDRESS?
1: YOU LOOK AT YOUR PARTNER, 2: EYE TO EYE CONTACT, 3: YOU START CONVERSING WITH THEM, 4: YOU HOLD HANDS... AND SO ON.
IT'S BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE. THERE ARE 12 STAGES TO GET INTIMATE WITH YOUR PARTNER.
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AT ALL...
WHAT IS SHE THINKING
AW.
OKAYYY.
YOU SHOULD GO FIRST.
THAT'S ENOUGH!! I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN
FOR A MALE AND FEMALE RELATIONSHIP THE LAST STAGE WOULD BE! —

CLACK
Aaaa...
Aaaaa
WHO KILLED YOU?
.....
I'M ISHIKAWA, A DETECTIVE.
DID YOU SEE THE CULPRIT?

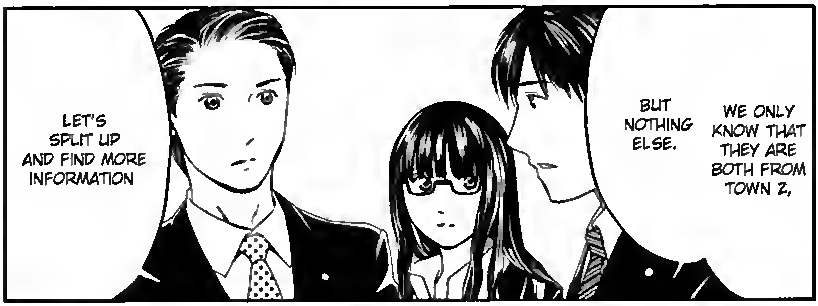
PLEASE, TRY TO TALK...!!!
HE IS AWARE OF ME, AND CAN LOOK INTO MY EYES
KNOW...
I-
I DON'T
Aaaaaa
aaa
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MARK?
Aaaaa!
Aaaa!

WOMAN?
ARAKI?
A
Woman
Ara...
Ki
ARAKI?
A...raki
he
Bb—
b
Bur...
ied.
Bur..ied.
Woman...
...Ki....

I—
I
Did...
Not
Kill...
...not...
SFX: WHOOSH
WOMAN...
I
DID
NOT
KILL?
ARAKI
BURIED...

NAKA-
MURA
OSAMU.
27
YEARS
OLD.
HE IS A
LOADING DOCK
WORKER AT
THE BAY.
WE FOUND
SOMETHING
INTERESTING
AS WELL!
WE FOUND
OUT WHO
THE SECOND
VICTIM IS.
THE
FIRST VICTIM,
KAZAMA,
AND THE
SECOND VICTIM,
NAKAMURA,
ARE BOTH
FROM TOWN Z
IN THE SAITAMA
PREFECTURE!

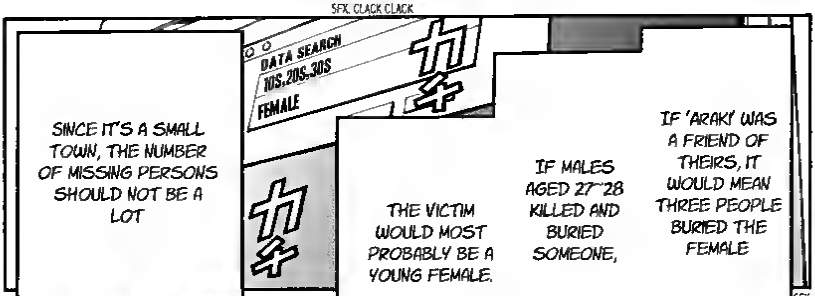
YES, SIR.
YOU GUYS CAN START FIRST.
I'M GOING TO GO TALK TO THE HIGHER-UPS FOR A WHILE,


LET'S SPLIT UP AND FIND MORE INFORMATION
BUT NOTHING ELSE.
WE ONLY KNOW THAT THEY ARE BOTH FROM TOWN Z,

TAP
TAP
WHY ARE YOU GIVING US ORDERS...?
But sure.
I'LL GO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEIR FAMILY AND WHERE THEY LIVE.
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY BOTH SWITCHED PART-TIME JOBS A LOT.
CAN YOU TWO FIND WHETHER THEY HAVE INTERACTED IN THEIR JOBS?

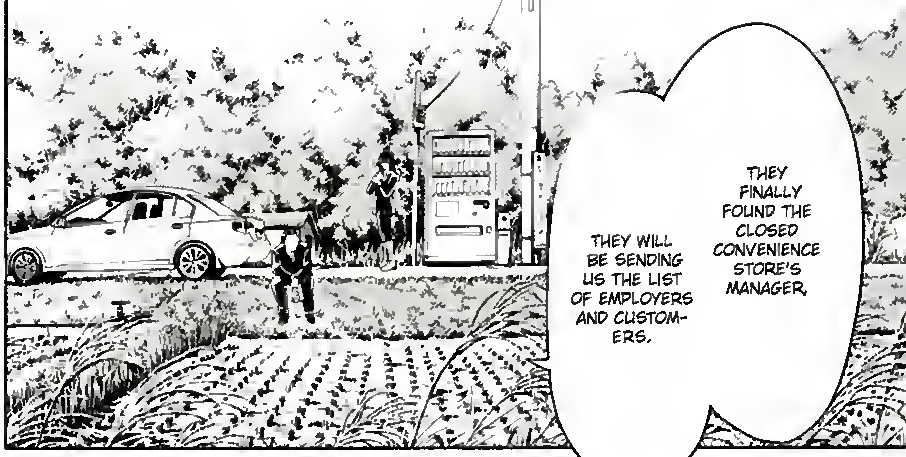
LET'S GO TO THE TAX OFFICE
AND THEIR SCHOOLS.
DON'T DRAG ME DOWN.
YES, SIR.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO FIRST?
.....
EXCUSE ME.
YES?
.....
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO RESEARCH ON,
COULD I PLEASE BORROW THE COMPUTER?
HUH?
OH.
IF I USED MY OWN ID, THERE'D BE A RECORD
SURE, GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU.
CLACK

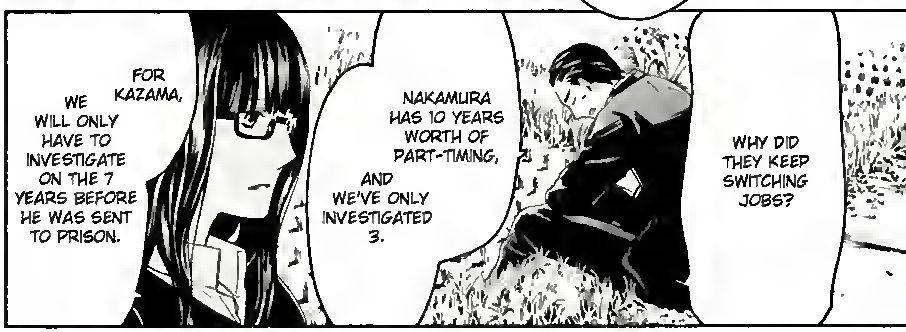
IF A FEMALE WAS KILLED AND BURIED,
SHE SHOULD BE TREATED AS A MISSING PERSON
Bur...
ied.
....ki.
Woman...


SFX. CLACK CLACK
DATA SEARCH
10S, 20S, 30S
FEMALE
カチ
カチ
SINCE IT'S A SMALL TOWN, THE NUMBER OF MISSING PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE A LOT
THE VICTIM WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE A YOUNG FEMALE.
IF MALES AGED 27~28 KILLED AND BURIED SOMEONE,
IF 'ARAKI' WAS A FRIEND OF THEIRS, IT WOULD MEAN THREE PEOPLE BURIED THE FEMALE
SFX. CLACK

THAT'S A LOT FOR A TOWN WITH JUST 50,000 PEOPLE.
IS 23 IN THE PAST 15 YEARS
THE NUMBER OF MISSING WOMEN IN THEIR 10S TO 30S
?
HIT23
名前
田中△△
木谷□□
西野○○
高山△△
真下□□
菊地○○
尾崎△△
斉藤□□
井田○○
相川△△
阿部□□
田中○○
川上△△
カチ
カチ

カチ
カチ
TANAKA△△
2014/10
カチ
SFX: CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK
カチ
カチ


THEY FINALLY FOUND THE CLOSED CONVENIENCE STORE'S MANAGER.
THEY WILL BE SENDING US THE LIST OF EMPLOYERS AND CUSTOMERS.


WHY DID THEY KEEP SWITCHING JOBS?
NAKAMURA HAS 10 YEARS WORTH OF PART-TIMING, AND WE'VE ONLY INVESTIGATED 3.
FOR KAZAMA, WE WILL ONLY HAVE TO INVESTIGATE ON THE 7 YEARS BEFORE HE WAS SENT TO PRISON.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE STARED OFF AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THIS IS SUCH A PEACEFUL PLACE...

GOD ,,

TACHIBANA-SAN, ARE YOU TIRED?
TO NOT SEE ANYONE IN FRONT OF YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD FEEL SO NICE
EVERY TIME I LOOK OVER, THERE IS NO ONE.
OKAY, REST TIME'S OVER.
BUT I WON'T STOP BEING A DETECTIVE.
I STARE AT CORPSES AND CRIMINALS EVERY DAY.
SERI-OUSLY?
OF COURSE I AM.
YES, SIR.
LET'S GO TO THE NEXT COMPANY.

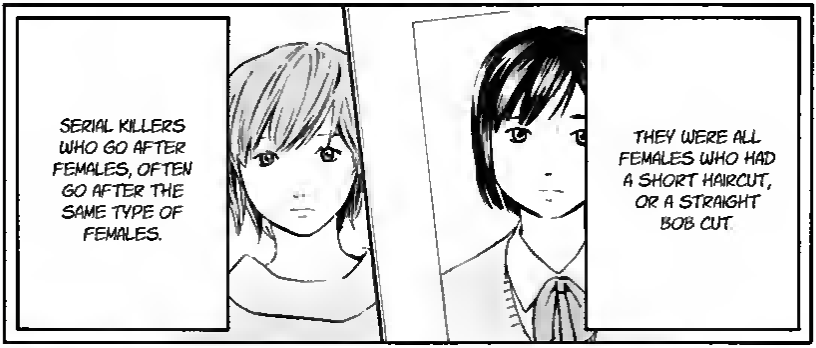
THEY MIGHT BE LIVING SOMEWHERE, AND HAVE THEIR HANDS ON BLACK MONEY.
THEY ARE MISSING PEOPLE.

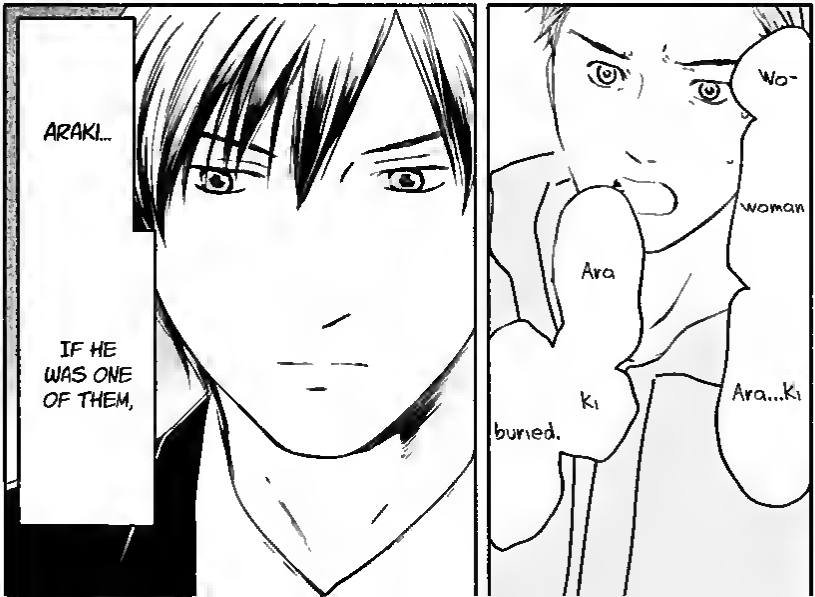
ALSO, THE PEOPLE AROUND THAT PERSON.
I WANT YOU TO FIND THE ONE THAT DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRACES AT ALL AFTER GOING MISSING.

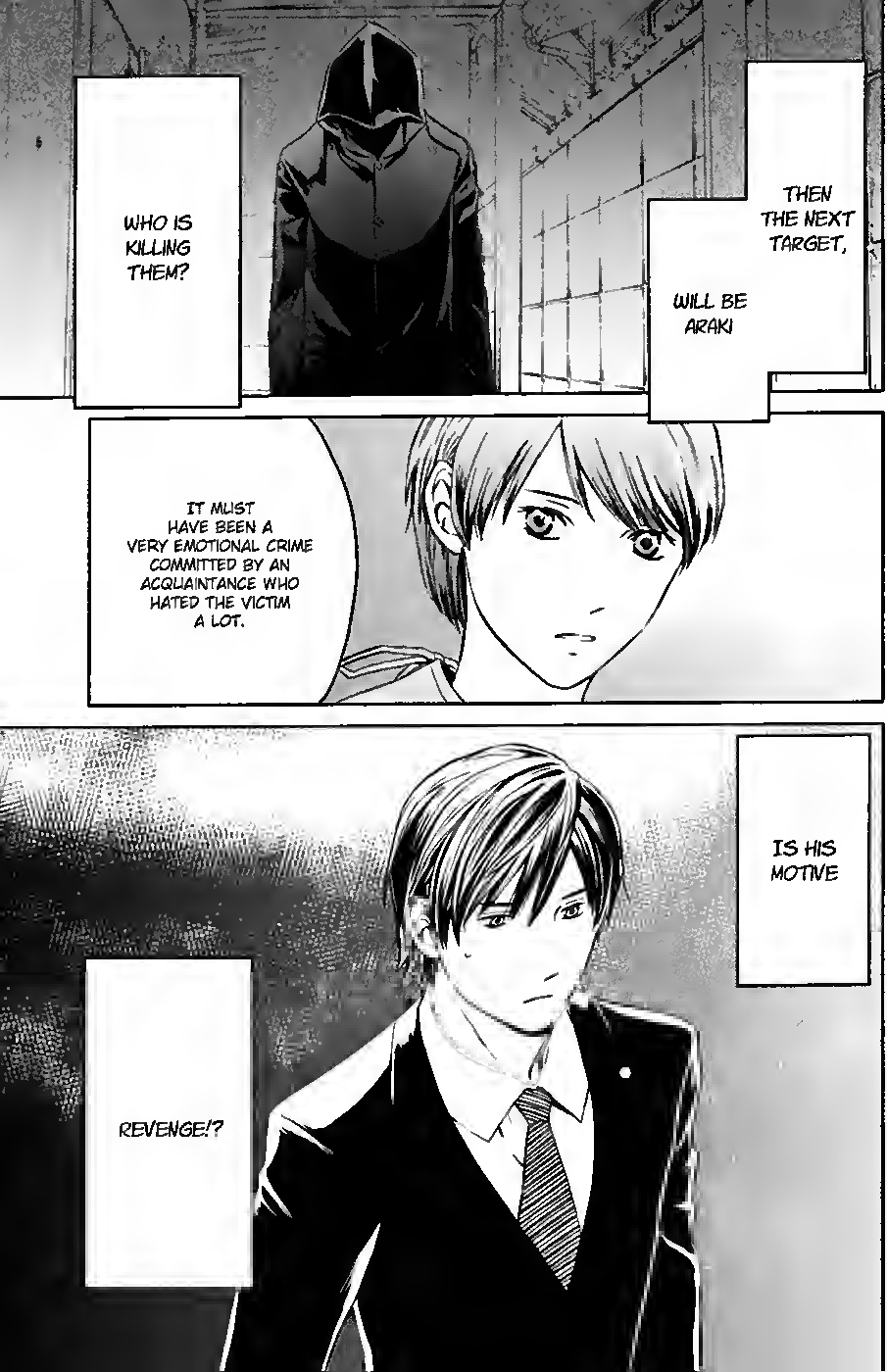
I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE WOMEN.

SEVERAL FEMALES ON THIS LIST MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED.
I DON'T GET IT.
GIVE ME MORE DETAILS.
I WANT TO ARREST THAT MAN.
THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED THE FEMALES,
WERE KILLED BY SOMEONE WHO MURDERS LIKE A PROFESSIONAL.
I SEE,
LEAVE IT TO ME.

AM I OVER-THINKING?
BUT IN THE PICTURES..
13 PEOPLE OUT OF 23 KILLED IN THESE SIX YEARS, LOOK SIMILAR


SERIAL KILLERS WHO GO AFTER FEMALES, OFTEN GO AFTER THE SAME TYPE OF FEMALES.
THEY WERE ALL FEMALES WHO HAD A SHORT HAIRCUT, OR A STRAIGHT BOB CUT

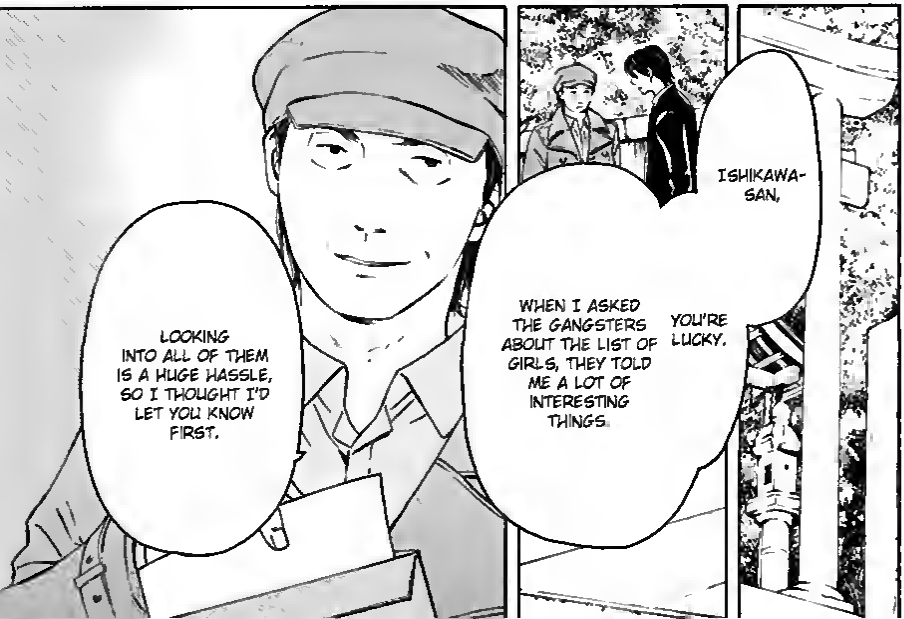

ARAKI...
IF HE WAS ONE OF THEM,
Wo-
woman
Ara
Ki
buried.
Ara...Ki


WHO IS KILLING THEM?
THEN THE NEXT TARGET,
WILL BE ARAKI
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY EMOTIONAL CRIME COMMITTED BY AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO HATED THE VICTIM A LOT.
IS HIS MOTIVE
REVENGE!?

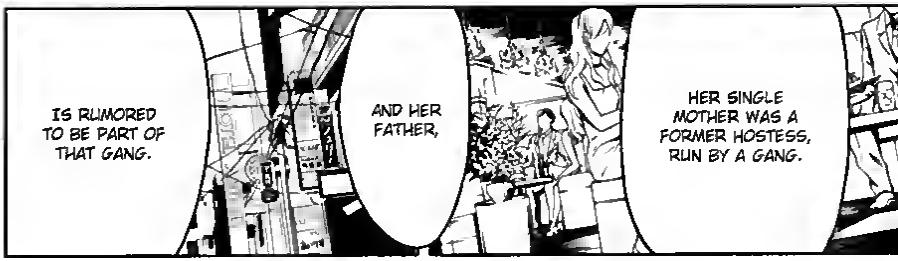
THANK YOU.
THIS IS THE LIST OF EMPLOYERS AT THAT TIME.
ALSO,
I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBERED
I HAVE GOOD MEMORY
HE'S ON THE LIST FROM THE LAST COMPANY.
AH, THIS PERSON CALLED NAGAMASA.
HE MIGHT BE NAKAMURA'S FRIEND.
THIS PERSON WORKED AT THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME TWICE BEFORE.
LET'S GO ASK HIM ABOUT IT.
HIS ADDRESS?
ARAKI KAORU
20XX/
20XX/
ADDRESS:
THIS PERSON CALLED "ARAKI"
WAS ON THE LAST LIST TOO.

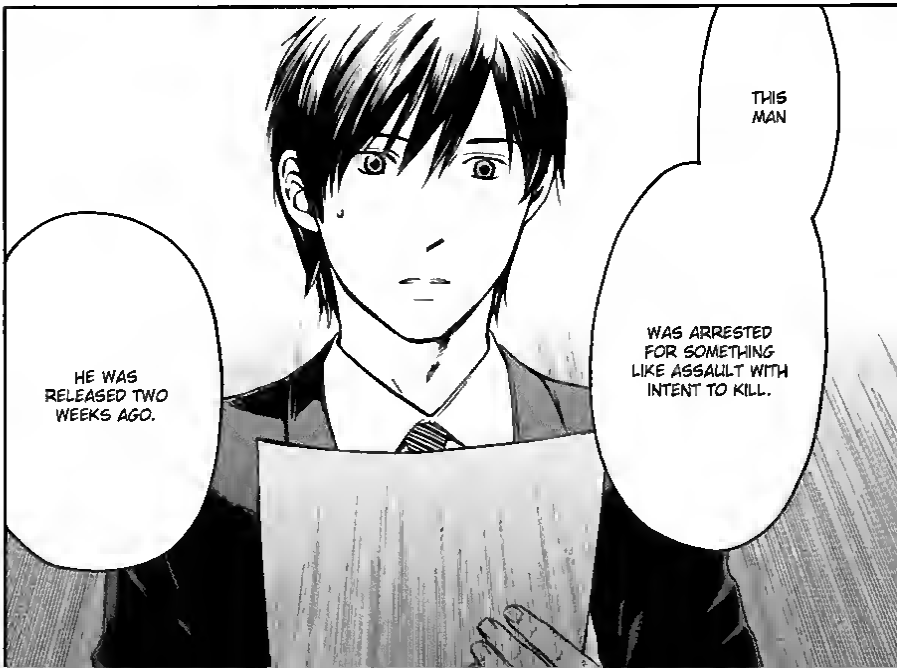
GEEZ.
IS HE WORKING PROPERLY?
ISHIKAWA HASN'T BEEN CONTACTING US AT ALL.
LET'S GO TO ARAKI FIRST.

SFX CLACK
SFX VROOM
NAH.
SHOULD I CALL HIM?


LOOKING INTO ALL OF THEM IS A HUGE HASSLE, SO I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW FIRST.
WHEN I ASKED THE GANGSTERS ABOUT THE LIST OF GIRLS, THEY TOLD ME A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS.
ISHIKAWA-SAN,
YOU'RE LUCKY.

KAWA I (18)
THIS GIRL,
WENT MISSING FIVE YEARS AGO, RIGHT AFTER SHE GRADUATED.


HER SINGLE MOTHER WAS A FORMER HOSTESS, RUN BY A GANG.
AND HER FATHER,
IS RUMORED TO BE PART OF THAT GANG.


THIS MAN
WAS ARRESTED FOR SOMETHING LIKE ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL.
HE WAS RELEASED TWO WEEKS AGO.

THIS IS HIS PHOTO.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALREADY 5B.
APPARENTLY, HE'S REALLY SKILLFUL,
THE GANG MEMBERS WENT TO WELCOME HIM,
BUT HE DISAPPEARED.
HIS NAME IS SAGINUMA SHINJI.

SFX BAM
ARAKI
THE GANG MEMBERS WERE SAYING THAT
THIS MAN,

WOULD DEFINITELY GO AFTER THE ONES WHO KILLED HIS DAUGHTER.
Ep.7 END